(a) if so, the details of the major complaints received and number of cases referred to vigilance/CBI agency for investigation and investigated by them in the last five years;

(b) the details of irregularities established per year and extent to manipulation involved and action taken against those found guilty; and

(d) the details of fresh initiatives taken/ proposed for clean and efficient marketing of
coal and do away with premiums and resultant
black marketing due to imbalance in demand
and supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) A complaint alleging irregular linkage and allotment of coal to industrial units of Maharashtra from Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) has been received by the Government during the recent past.

(b) The complaint referred to in answer to part (a) of the question is under examination.

(c) The fresh initiative taken/proposed to be taken including the following:

(i) To increase the production of coal from different coalifields.

(ii) To de-regulate the prices of coking and A,B,C and D grades of non-coking coal thereby enabling more realistic pricing.

(iii) Subject to legislative approval to enable mining of coal by any Indian company.

(iv) The free import of coal into India at lower rates of duty.

The above steps will increase availability of coal thereby reducing the demand and supply gap and competition will improve efficiency in all aspects.

Estimated coal reserves in NE Region

3050. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether estimated coal reserves in different ranges, e.g. Patkai of the North-Eastern Region;

(1) the quality of coal vis-a-vis sulphur and heat contents as compared to other coalfields of the country; and

(2) the quantity of the coal being extracted in the North-Eastern Region by open-cast and underground mining at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The estimated coal reserves in the Patkai range of North-Eastern region are about 0.4 billion tonnes. These reserves contain sulphur content ranging from 1.3% to 9.8% and Calorific Value 4680-8500 K. Cal/Kg. The heat value of NEC coals compares favourably with the coals of other coalfields of the country whereras sulphur content is very much higher in comparision.

(c) During the year 1996-97. opencast production and underground production of mines of Coal India Limited in the North-Eastern region has been of the order of 4.73 lakh tonnes and 2.79 lakh tonnes respectively.

विभिन्न राष्ट्रीयकृत कोयला कंपनियों को हुआ लाभ तथा हानि

3051. **डा. वाई. लक्ष्मी प्रसाद**: क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:-

(क) विभिन्न राष्ट्रीयकृत कोयला कंपनियों को पिछले तीन वर्षों में हुए लाभ अथवा हानि का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) इनमें से प्रत्येक कोयला कंपनी में सरकार द्वारा कितनी पूंजी लगाई गई है;

(ग) क्या कुछ कोयला कंपनियों में अभी भी आधुनिकीकरण के नाम पर और अधिक धन लगाया जा रहा है;

(घ) क्या इन कोयला कंपनियों के उत्पादन तथा वित्तीय स्थिति के संबंध में कोई अध्ययन किया गया है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या परिणाम निकले हैं?

कोयला मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती कांति सिंह): (क) वर्ष 1996-97 के लिए कोयला कंपनियों के वित्तीय निष्पादन का पता लेखों को अंतिम रुप दिए जाने के बाद ही चल सकेगा। कोल इंडिया लि. (को. इं. लि.),